

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 3, 2001

**Contact:** Pat Patterson, Washington State Ferries  
(206) 515-3410

## **Transportation Secretary Announces Panel to help Select New Ferry System Chief**

(Seattle, WA) Transportation Secretary Douglas B. MacDonald today announced an eight-person panel to participate in the recruitment and selection of a new Washington State Ferries Chief Executive Officer.

“This recruitment is a top priority,” MacDonald said. “Our goal is to have a new Department of Transportation Deputy Director in place as chief of the ferry system as soon as possible.” MacDonald stressed that involvement by the public, transportation customers and government leaders is crucial for the recruitment process and he looks forward to the panel’s contribution to filling a key leadership position.

The Candidate Evaluation and Recommendation Panel members will represent a broad cross-section of interests. Members include ferry riders, a maritime tourist industry business person, former Transportation Commissioners, a prominent member of organized labor, a member of ferry system management and two others who are executives in the Washington State Department of Transportation.

Panel members are:

**Tom Green** – former Transportation Commissioner and current Executive Director of Link Transit in Wenatchee.

**Rick Bender** – President, Washington State Labor Council.

**Robert Distler** – Current Chair, Executive Committee of the Ferry Advisory Committee, Chair of the San Juan County Ferry Advisory Committee and a ferry rider

**Alice Tawresey** – Current Chair of the Ferry Tariff Review Committee, former Transportation Commission Chair and a ferry rider.

(MORE)

**John Blackman** – Owner, Argosy Tours, Seattle.

**Helga Morgenstern** – Director of Administration & Support, Washington State Department of Transportation.

**John Okamoto** – Transition Director, Washington State Department of Transportation.

**Terry McCarthy** – Acting CEO, Washington State Ferries.

Before the recruitment begins, the panel and others will be working to comment on the job description. The recruitment, which will include national and local advertising, is scheduled to begin in late May and will close in late June.

Washington State Ferries is the largest ferry system in the United States and the third largest in the world. Last year, the ferry system safely transported 26 million passengers and 11 million vehicles. Washington State Ferries is the top tourist attraction in the state and the second largest mass-transit system in the state (behind King County Metro). It is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2001 as part of the Washington State Department of Transportation.

# # #